



THIRD SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

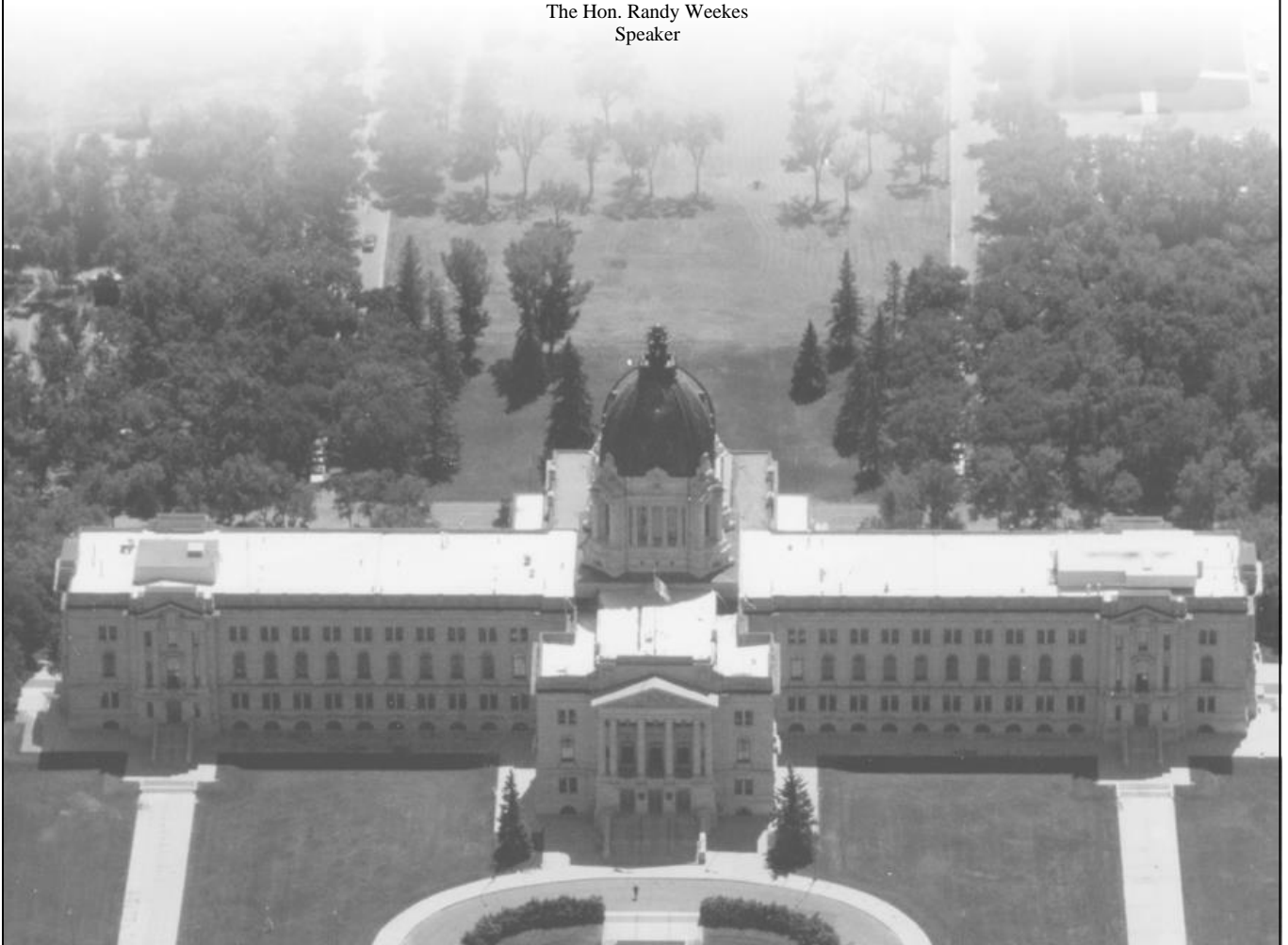
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**DEBATES  
AND  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of  
The Hon. Randy Weekes  
Speaker



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**  
**3rd Session — 29th Legislature**

**Lieutenant Governor** — His Honour the Honourable Russ Mirasty, S.O.M., M.S.M.

**Speaker** — Hon. Randy Weekes  
**Premier** — Hon. Scott Moe  
**Leader of the Opposition** — Carla Beck

<b>Beck, Carla</b> — Regina Lakeview (NDP)	<b>Makowsky, Hon. Gene</b> — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)
<b>Bonk, Steven</b> — Moosomin (SP)	<b>Marit, Hon. David</b> — Wood River (SP)
<b>Bowes, Jennifer</b> — Saskatoon University (NDP)	<b>McLeod, Hon. Tim</b> — Moose Jaw North (SP)
<b>Bradshaw, Fred</b> — Carrot River Valley (SP)	<b>McMorris, Hon. Don</b> — Indian Head-Milestone (SP)
<b>Buckingham, David</b> — Saskatoon Westview (SP)	<b>Merriman, Hon. Paul</b> — Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland (SP)
<b>Carr, Hon. Lori</b> — Estevan (SP)	<b>Moe, Hon. Scott</b> — Rosthern-Shellbrook (SP)
<b>Cheveldayoff, Ken</b> — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)	<b>Morgan, Hon. Don</b> — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)
<b>Cockrill, Hon. Jeremy</b> — The Battlefords (SP)	<b>Mowat, Vicki</b> — Saskatoon Fairview (NDP)
<b>Conway, Meara</b> — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)	<b>Nerlien, Hugh</b> — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)
<b>Dennis, Terry</b> — Canora-Pelly (SP)	<b>Nippi-Albright, Betty</b> — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)
<b>Domotor, Ryan</b> — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP)	<b>Ottenbreit, Greg</b> — Yorkton (SP)
<b>Duncan, Hon. Dustin</b> — Weyburn-Big Muddy (SP)	<b>Reiter, Hon. Jim</b> — Rosetown-Elrose (SP)
<b>Eyre, Hon. Bronwyn</b> — Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota (SP)	<b>Ritchie, Erika</b> — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)
<b>Fiaz, Muhammad</b> — Regina Pasqua (SP)	<b>Ross, Alana</b> — Prince Albert Northcote (SP)
<b>Francis, Ken</b> — Kindersley (SP)	<b>Ross, Hon. Laura</b> — Regina Rochdale (SP)
<b>Friesen, Marv</b> — Saskatoon Riversdale (SP)	<b>Sarauer, Nicole</b> — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)
<b>Goudy, Todd</b> — Melfort (SP)	<b>Skoropad, Hon. Dana</b> — Arm River (SP)
<b>Grewal, Gary</b> — Regina Northeast (SP)	<b>Steele, Doug</b> — Cypress Hills (SP)
<b>Hargrave, Joe</b> — Prince Albert Carlton (SP)	<b>Teed, Nathaniel</b> — Saskatoon Meewasin (NDP)
<b>Harpauer, Hon. Donna</b> — Humboldt-Watrous (SP)	<b>Tell, Hon. Christine</b> — Regina Wascana Plains (SP)
<b>Harrison, Daryl</b> — Cannington (SP)	<b>Vermette, Doyle</b> — Cumberland (NDP)
<b>Harrison, Hon. Jeremy</b> — Meadow Lake (SP)	<b>Weekes, Hon. Randy</b> — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)
<b>Hindley, Hon. Everett</b> — Swift Current (SP)	<b>Wilson, Nadine</b> — Saskatchewan Rivers (Ind.)
<b>Jenson, Terry</b> — Martensville-Warman (SP)	<b>Wotherspoon, Trent</b> — Regina Rosemont (NDP)
<b>Kaeding, Warren</b> — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)	<b>Wyant, Hon. Gordon</b> — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
<b>Keisig, Travis</b> — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)	<b>Young, Aleana</b> — Regina University (NDP)
<b>Kirsch, Delbert</b> — Batoche (SP)	<b>Young, Colleen</b> — Lloydminster (SP)
<b>Lambert, Lisa</b> — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)	
<b>Lawrence, Greg</b> — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)	<b>Vacant</b> — Lumsden-Morse
<b>Lemaigre, Jim</b> — Athabasca (SP)	<b>Vacant</b> — Regina Coronation Park
<b>Love, Matt</b> — Saskatoon Eastview (NDP)	<b>Vacant</b> — Regina Walsh Acres

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**Standings**

Government Caucus: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 45; Opposition Caucus: New Democratic Party (NDP) — 12;  
Independent: Saskatchewan United Party (Ind.) — 1; Vacant — 3

**Clerks-at-the-Table**

**Clerk** — Iris Lang  
**Law Clerk & Parliamentary Counsel** — Kenneth S. Ring, K.C.  
**Deputy Clerk** — Kathy Burianyk  
**Principal Clerk** — Robert Park

**Sergeant-at-Arms** — Lyall Frederiksen

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Legislative Assembly are available  
within hours after each sitting.

<https://www.legassembly.sk.ca/Calendar>

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

## TABLING OF REPORTS

**The Speaker:** — I would like to table the annual report from the Advocate for Children and Youth in accordance with section 39 of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act*. The advocate has submitted the annual report for the year 2022.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

**Hon. Ms. L. Ross:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and through you 23 grade 4 students from MacNeill School. And they're accompanied by their teacher, Lana Meyers.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is the third group this week from that same school. I have to say I must commend the teachers and the principal for encouraging their teachers to bring their students to the Assembly so they can watch the proceedings. And then we have an opportunity after to enter into discussion where they get to ask me some pretty poignant questions. So welcome, everyone, to these wonderful students.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Last Mountain-Touchwood.

**Mr. Keisig:** — I request leave for an extended introduction, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Leave has been requested for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Mr. Keisig:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you I am very excited to introduce Ituna School grade 7 and 8 class here today. They are joined by their teacher, Teaghan Morvik; Principal Brittany Gent; educational assistants Treena Smuk, Todd Schnell; their very famous bus driver, Dennis Spilchak; and parent chaperone Tavis Riedel.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Ituna School is a very special place for myself. My father went to that school, I went to that school, and both of my daughters went to that school. And yes, I did graduate from that school.

Their athletic program is top-notch, Mr. Speaker, with a long history of very competitive six-man football, girls' volleyball, and some very, very accomplished track and field athletics. Many students there have moved on to national and international competitions. Their academic program has produced many health care workers, lawyers, teachers, very skilled tradesmen,

and some of the best agricultural producers in the world.

Ituna School somehow has a talent to attract some of the most outstanding educators in the field to work there, and the community always tries to help them as best we can.

I have to give a shout-out to Ethan Olech. Give a wave, Ethan. There you go. His father texted me this morning and wanted me to do that.

And I have to give one more to Abby Degelman. She is not here today. She's unable to attend because, I have to quote, Mr. Speaker, "badminton is life" and district playoffs are today so she's unable to make it.

But to you and through you, Mr. Speaker, please welcome Ituna grade 7 and 8 class to this, their Legislative Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Corrections and Public Safety.

**Hon. Ms. Tell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and through all members, I'd like to introduce to you in the Speaker's gallery Monique Goffinet Miller and Nancy Keyowski from the Commissionaires. Monique is the chief executive officer for southern Sask Commissionaires and Nancy is her executive assistant. Nancy has lived in Saskatchewan her entire life and has never attended the Chamber until today.

We're all very familiar with the Commissionaires, Mr. Speaker, being a trusted and stable security component everywhere throughout the province. I want to recognize our guests here today for the hard work they do to keep the Commissionaires in Saskatchewan successful and thriving in our province. We thank you, and keep up the great work. Please join me in welcoming these two guests to their Legislative Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to join with the minister in welcoming Monique and Nancy to their Legislative Assembly, and to join with her in thanking them for their work with the Commissionaires. I know, as the minister mentioned, Commissionaires we see all over this province. And certainly they greet us every morning when we come through the front doors of this building, some of our very favourite people in the world. I hope that you enjoy the proceedings today.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to also note that I believe Monique was one of the first constituents I ever had the honour of introducing in this Assembly. She's someone who does everything with enthusiasm and integrity and, Mr. Speaker, someone who feels like a good friend from the moment you know her.

So I would like to invite all members to join with me and welcome these guests to their Legislative Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Melfort.

**Mr. Goudy:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce two good friends from the Saskatoon

area. So we have the nice young lady sitting there, Brooke Healey. It's a good family friend of mine. Brooke has, I think, helped a few of my kids do well in school, in high school, and many others along the way. But she, after getting her master's in accounting, went on and she's in her . . . got one year left, I guess, in law. And just a bright young mind, done a lot of great things already, and we're looking forward to some wonderful things in her future.

And sitting beside her is a good young man from the Dalmeny area, a farm boy who also manages an insurance agency there. And just for everyone here, he is one of the ones who keeps our new house builds numbers up. He's a bit of a lazy guy, so in his spare time he builds houses, Mr. Speaker.

So I would like to invite these . . . all of the members here today to welcome these two young, bright minds to their Legislative Assembly.

**An. Hon. Member:** — What's his name?

**Mr. Goudy:** — Oh, sorry. Mike. This mind isn't so bright, but the two up there are. That would be Michael Reddekopp from . . .

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

**Ms. Nippi-Albright:** — I'm pleased to be on my feet, calling for real action to fight climate change. The folks who signed this petition wish to bring to your attention the following: the United Nations has declared climate change "the defining issue of our time"; climate change impacts are global in scope and unprecedented in scale; without drastic action today, adapting to impacts of the future will be more difficult and costly; and that this province has failed to produce a credible plan to reduce emissions.

The failure of the government will have devastating impacts on our province.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the provincial government to enact a credible climate action plan and allocate appropriate funding to ensure real reductions in Saskatchewan's greenhouse gas emissions that are consistent with the scientific consensus to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The folks who signed this petition reside in Unity. I do so present.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Kindersley.

**Mr. Francis:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan, wish to bring to your attention the following: that the NDP [New Democratic Party]-Liberal federal tax on carbon continues to make life more expensive for Saskatchewan residents; that the federal Liberal-NDP coalition government continues to be disingenuous in their rhetoric surrounding the carbon tax; and that according to the

parliamentary budget officer's analysis, most households will pay more in fuel charges and GST [goods and services tax], as well as receiving slightly lower incomes than they will receive in climate action incentive payments; despite promises from the federal government that the tax would remain revenue neutral and that families would benefit, the reality is that families are paying more than they receive.

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan takes the following action: to call upon the Government of Canada to immediately end the federal carbon tax and support Saskatchewan's development as a global supplier of food, fuel, and fertilizer.

The below undersigned are residents of the great city of Saskatoon. I do so present.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Meewasin.

**Mr. Teed:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present our petition calling on the Government of Saskatchewan to renew its 35-year relationship with Luther Heights in Saskatoon in providing affordable housing units to seniors in my riding in Saskatoon Meewasin.

Thus the undersigned residents would like to bring to our attention the following: the department of Social Services is cancelling the government subsidy for 50 apartments at Luther Heights, a senior's residence in Saskatoon; this building contains 120 units providing vital housing for seniors; the decision to eliminate these subsidies reduces the supply of affordable housing to seniors on fixed incomes and creates a burden and stress on us all.

Mr. Speaker, seniors across Saskatchewan are being forced to choose between paying more or leaving their homes and communities. This is not how seniors, who have contributed so much to our country, should be treated. We urge the government to reconsider ending its relationship and renew the partnership with Luther Heights.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully call on the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan to urge the Government of Saskatchewan to reverse the decision to eliminate subsidized housing and restore funding for the 50 units affected at Luther Heights.

Mr. Speaker, the signatories today reside in Saskatoon. I do so present.

### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon University.

#### Saskatoon Sexual Health Features *The Janes* Movie

**Ms. Bowes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On January 9th, I had the pleasure of attending Saskatoon's Sexual Health's Monday

movie night. The film on offer was *The Janes*, an award-winning documentary about an underground network of women in the US [United States] known as the Janes. In the years before *Roe v. Wade*, these women helped people seeking to obtain — at the time illegal — abortions at enormous personal risk to themselves and to their families. They're estimated to have helped over 11,000 people protect themselves and their bodily autonomy.

It's a great story but it's also a dark reminder, Mr. Speaker, of the days we can't afford to go back to. Even today with abortion long legalized throughout Canada, women in Saskatchewan are still facing unacceptable barriers. There are significant discrepancies between the timelines to obtain a surgical abortion in Regina versus Saskatoon. And in addition, in Regina a person can self-refer for a surgical abortion, whereas in Saskatoon a doctor's referral is required — an extra barrier. In the North the only option available is for people to try and find a way to Saskatoon, in some cases over 1200 kilometres away.

The Minister of Health promised action back in November on this inequality, but we've seen nothing at all from him since then. I stand here to acknowledge Saskatoon Sexual Health's exceptional hard work and the Janes' endless bravery, but also to remind my fellow members: abortion is health care, abortion is a human right, and as legislators we must prioritize barrier-free access to this common and safe medical procedure.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Carrot River Valley.

### National Pilots' Day

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is national pilots' day, so as a pilot, I thought it was appropriate to speak on it. Canada has a long tradition in aviation. We had Billy Bishop, the third-highest scoring ace in the First World War. We had Wop May, also a World War I pilot participating in the hunt for the Mad Trapper of Rat River, a first for the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] to use aerial surveillance.

In the 1920s and '30s much of Canada's North was surveyed using aircraft making accurate maps to assist the people of the North. This also helped shape Canada into what it is today. A little-known fact is that Saskatchewan was the first jurisdiction in the nation to incorporate an air ambulance. That was forward thinking. Could you imagine what today would be like without that and STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Service]?

[13:45]

Canada was also instrumental in training Commonwealth pilots for the Second World War, with training bases set up all across this great country. My uncle Bill was a bomber pilot and flew right from the beginning of the war until the end — one lucky guy, as the survival rate was atrocious.

Mr. Speaker, today we think nothing of jumping on an airplane to see the world, to see aerial applicators helping farmers with crop production, and a multitude of other tasks that pilots do. I ask all members to thank our great men and women in aviation on this national pilots' day. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina

Rosemont.

### Regina Pats Surprise Outdoor Hockey League Players

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, the evening of February 8th will never be forgotten for some kids and families in Regina. That evening, Outdoor Hockey League players had been bused in for their annual Frost fest game at the rink on Wascana Lake, a special thing in itself. We had just gotten the players organized on the ice when the big blue Regina Pats bus pulled up, honking its horn, and Connor Bedard and the Pats unloaded, dressed and ready to play. We had kept the plan a surprise.

As one of the volunteer coaches and being on the ice that night, I can't put into words how awestruck the kids were. It was such a beautiful thing. The kids were skating, battling, and talking with their hockey heroes, including the world's best player of their generation, Pats captain, Connor Bedard. This night was an incredible demonstration of the Pats' commitment to our community and to the Outdoor Hockey League.

As another demonstration of this, Pats players joined weekly practices of the OHL [Outdoor Hockey League] at rinks across Regina. The players were incredible with the kids. Further, Pats CEO [chief executive officer], Gord Pritchard, also serves as a volunteer coach with the OHL, and Pats owners Gavin and Shaun Semple donated \$50,000 to the league from the Brandt Group of Companies. I can't overstate the impact of the Regina Pats organization, the players, leadership, and ownership to the OHL and our community. I ask all members to join with me in expressing our gratitude.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Kelvington-Wadena.

### Crime Stoppers

**Mr. Nerlien:** — Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, April 22nd, I had the honour of being the guest speaker at the 40th anniversary of Calgary Crime Stoppers Association, the first in Canada. I, along with former Lieutenant Governor Lois Mitchell, Chief of Police Mark Neufeld, and the Hon. Chief Justice of Alberta Derek Redman emphasized the value of the partnership between the community, law enforcement, and the media in the fight against crime.

Mr. Speaker, having been involved in the program's development at local, provincial, national, and international levels gives me a unique perspective on its success. In Canada some 90 Crime Stoppers programs, along with countless like-minded programs around the world, have resulted in the arrest of over 955,000 people and recovery of over \$11 billion in property and drugs. Partnerships with Interpol and international law enforcement organizations help solve human trafficking, cyber crime, and terrorism cases.

Mr. Speaker, behind every statistic is a victim and countless victims that might have been had it not been for an anonymous tip resulting in an arrest. Chief Neufeld spoke about the grateful law enforcement community and its partnership with Crime Stoppers, and Chief Justice Redman spoke about the Indigenous justice strategy recently undertaken in Alberta. Mr. Speaker, it's important to note that community volunteers are a critical part of

the success of Crime Stoppers, and we thank them. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

### Administrative Professionals Day

**Ms. C. Young:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. April 26th is Administrative Professionals Day. The day is celebrated annually on the Wednesday of the last week of April in Canada, the United States, Hong Kong, and Malaysia. In the modern workplace, new titles such as administrative assistant represent a legion of women and men who are highly skilled and knowledgeable.

Far from just possessing the stereotypical interpersonal and communication skills, today admins are responsible for office duties ranging from expert computer troubleshooting to managing new hires. As many of us can attest in this House, without our admins keeping track, we'd be lost in our many meetings, consultations, and events. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, thank you to all of the administrative professionals working throughout our province.

I would also like to mention a few of our caucus professional admins: Priya, Jana, and Kim. Thank you for making sure we're ready to go every morning, from having the coffee ready to taking calls from stakeholders and organizing our receptions.

And another final shout-out to all of our constituency assistants. Thanks for handling the day-to-day while we're here in the legislature. You are what keeps everything running smoothly and keeps us on track in our busy lives. I encourage everyone to take the time to thank the admins in their office and appreciate the hard work they do in keeping things organized.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

### Remembering Fire Chief Gordon Roberts

**Mr. Lemaigre:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with heavy hearts that we recognize the passing of Fire Chief Gordon Roberts while he was responding to a bushfire near the community of Grandmother's Bay. Gordon is well remembered for his four decades of service to the North.

Mr. Speaker, Roberts passed while doing what he was born to do — helping others. He devoted his entire life to serving communities like Stanley Mission and Grandmother's Bay from his time as a public works director in Stanley Mission where he worked on the maintenance for the school. And for the past five years, Gordon worked as both the volunteer fire chief and the water treatment plant operator in Grandmother's Bay.

Our hearts go out to his family, colleagues, friends, and communities he's served and all of whom he loved dearly. Mr. Speaker, our volunteer firefighters go out and serve their communities with pride, knowing well the dangers they face in carrying out their duties. And this is truly a great loss for Saskatchewan's North.

I ask that all members of the Assembly join me in thanking Gordon Roberts for his dedication to the communities he served and recognizing his selfless determination to serve. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Melville-Saltcoats.

### Saskatchewan's Growing Economic Engagement

**Mr. Kaeding:** — Mr. Speaker, yesterday you heard the member from Kindersley talk about the great successes of our international engagement strategy. And I'm happy to rise once again in the House to talk about more great outcomes from the nine trade investment offices around the world, located in India, Germany, Singapore, China, Mexico, United Kingdom, Japan, United Arab Emirates, and Vietnam.

Mr. Speaker, today we announce that merchandise exports to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, increased by 91.3 per cent in 2022. We often talk about our strong economy leading the nation, and this is just further proof. Saskatchewan is Canada's leading exporter to the ASEAN region and, Mr. Speaker, the value of those exports were more than \$2.9 billion in 2022. The top products exported to this region were potash, wheat, and semi-chemical wood pulp.

Mr. Speaker, growing Saskatchewan's presence on the global stage is vital to creating a strong and robust economy here at home. On this side of the House, we are committed to supporting our growing economy by focusing on international markets, increased trade, and investment opportunities, which in turn creates more jobs and opportunities here at home. And, Mr. Speaker, that is growth that works for everyone.

### QUESTION PERIOD

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

### Affordability and Cost of Living

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, this tired and out-of-touch government is failing to deliver when it comes to the cost of living, even though Saskatchewan people are struggling to pay their bills more than anywhere else in the country. 52, 52 per cent of Saskatchewan people say that they're in bad or terrible financial shape. Despite that, we have a government that keeps piling on new costs. Why is the Premier choosing to hike power and energy bills when so many people in this province are already struggling?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments Corporation.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, as a province we look at the total costs that our citizens have to live with and have to spend money on. And, Mr. Speaker, we are the most affordable province in Canada.

We have raised the threshold before people start to pay income tax. We have the second-lowest utility bundle right now in the nation, the lowest auto insurance rates, and the lowest natural gas rates. For their total utility bundle, the average Saskatchewan family pays over \$700 less than a family in British Columbia, over \$1,300 less than a family in Quebec, over \$3,700 less than a family in Ontario, and over \$4,000 less than a family in Alberta, and over \$5,000 less than a family in Newfoundland.

Mr. Speaker, I've got more information to give them if the members would like to talk about it some more.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people are struggling to pay their bills, but you'd never know it if you listen to that tired and out-of-touch government. In fact more Saskatchewan people say that they are struggling to pay for groceries than anywhere else in the country.

I have an honest question for the Premier: does that not bother him at all, or is he so out of touch that he no longer cares about the fact that Saskatchewan people can't afford groceries?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments Corporation.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, if the members opposite were sincere about wanting to deal with affordability in our province, they would talk to their co-leader Jagmeet Singh and ask him to deal with the carbon tax.

Mr. Speaker, as of April 1st of this year — this is the first month of this — we now have the highest carbon tax that we have ever seen. A typical home in our province might have SaskEnergy gas usage of some \$85.14. On that \$85.14 of carbon usage, they would pay \$60.02 in carbon tax. Mr. Speaker, if that carries on at the present rate, it will not be very long before we will be paying more money in carbon tax than we will be paying for the actual energy consumption.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge those members opposite to take that very seriously because we will be having an election in about a year and a half from now, and we will be reminding the citizens of this province they supported the carbon tax.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

### Funding for Education

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, and I will be reminding that minister today that today Saskatchewan people cannot pay their bills and they need to do something about it. This is a Premier and a government that's failing to deliver for our kids and our families as well.

Earlier this week, Saskatoon Public Schools sent a notice to parents that read, and I quote, "Total per-student funding has been cut." Also read, "We have to make cuts to balance the budget."

Mr. Speaker, the impact of this tired and out-of-touch Premier's choices could not be more clear. Now why, while they sit on windfall revenues, is the Premier forcing another year of cuts onto Saskatoon Public Schools?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Advanced Education.

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — You know, Mr. Speaker, this government has made record investments in education, Mr. Speaker, in the K to 12 [kindergarten to grade 12] system: \$3.1 billion this year,

of which \$2.1 billion in operating. Record investment, Mr. Speaker, the largest in the history of this province.

And, Mr. Speaker, I hear the members stand up every day asking for more money for public education, but never do they ever stand up and tell us how they're going to pay for that. We deserve to hear from them how they're going to pay for any increases, Mr. Speaker.

Last year, Mr. Speaker, last year, Mr. Speaker, we paid the debt down by a billion dollars. And there's one thing we're not going to do, Mr. Speaker, is we're not going to leave the children in those classrooms across this province . . . Mr. Speaker, we're not going to leave the children in those classrooms in this province with unmanageable operating debt. That's a promise to the children in the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, and a promise to every child across this province.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

**Ms. Beck:** — Well maybe, Mr. Speaker, some of those members would like to start with an inquiry into the GTH [Global Transportation Hub].

Mr. Speaker, another year of cuts are coming to Saskatoon Public. Those are the facts. And it was this tired and out-of-touch Premier that cut per-student funding. Those are the facts. The question is, why does this government think that kids in Saskatoon schools need fewer supports this year than they needed last year?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Advanced Education.

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan leads the country in per capita funding across our education portfolios. That's something that we're very, very proud of, Mr. Speaker. We're going to continue to support public education, Mr. Speaker, across all our education portfolios.

We know how important it is to make sure the kids in our classrooms, Mr. Speaker, get good quality education from our teachers. We thank our teachers for all the great work they do. We thank our school divisions for the great work they are doing in ensuring that those kids are getting the education they need, Mr. Speaker.

[14:00]

What the people of Saskatchewan can count on, what the children in the Assembly can count on, is this government's going to continue to work hard to make sure that we're providing adequate resources to our school divisions so that children can be properly educated.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

**Mr. Love:** — How disappointing, Mr. Speaker, because of this empty, tired, and desperate messaging from an MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] who represents families in Saskatoon. And he used to sit on that school board. He knows better. He knows better. There is no denying, Mr. Speaker. This

is basic math. It's basic. Student numbers are up in Saskatoon and per-student funding is down. That's a cut, Mr. Speaker.

Does the minister acknowledge that he's forcing cuts to Saskatoon Public Schools, or does the minister need a basic math lesson on the steps of the legislature this Saturday?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Advanced Education.

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure how many times I have to repeat myself, but this is a record investment in education, in the K to 12 system. More teachers, more educational assistants, Mr. Speaker.

We understand the importance of ensuring that children in this province get a good quality education. That's why we continue to support quality education in the province, Mr. Speaker. A 6.7 increase, Mr. Speaker, the budget's increased over the last number of years. Just last year the largest budgetary increase in seven years, Mr. Speaker. That shows this government's commitment to ensuring that we're properly funding our classrooms, Mr. Speaker.

The Minister of Education has said on a number of occasions that he is out visiting with school divisions, Mr. Speaker, visiting with stakeholders, and having the conversations that need to be had to make sure that we do what we can do to properly support our classrooms, our teachers, and our education system.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

**Mr. Love:** — Mr. Speaker, if I need to explain inflation to the front benches of this government, then we've got bigger problems on our hands.

Cuts are coming in Saskatoon Public Schools because of this tired and out-of-touch government. It's not a prediction. It's a warning. It's a fact. This government is forcing the board in Saskatoon to take a hard look at their budget and to make cuts, decide what's got to go, in a system that's already cut down to the bone. There's one thing that's coming, and that'll be cuts to teachers. Many teachers are burning out, but school boards may need to cut the teachers that want to stay.

Can the minister tell us how many teachers he thinks Saskatoon Public Schools should cut because of his failure to deliver?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Advanced Education.

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Mr. Speaker, what I can tell you is there's more teachers working in Saskatchewan today than there was last year. More teachers being hired. More teachers working in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, than the last year. More educational assistants, Mr. Speaker. More funding for K to 12 education. \$2.1 billion, Mr. Speaker, as I've said before, significantly more money than in last year's budget. And last year's budget that we just passed shows an increase that we hadn't seen in over eight years, Mr. Speaker. And again, I'll just tell the member, that shows our commitment to public education.

The Minister of Education has said he's going to meet with school divisions to talk about the challenges and the issues they have, Mr. Speaker. It's the will in government to have a conversation with those individuals, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that what we're doing is properly supporting public education for the kids in our classrooms.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

**Mr. Love:** — Mr. Speaker, this former Education minister is embarrassing himself with talks about record spending when class sizes are going up, complexity is going up, and he denies those facts.

Now we hope, we hope that school staff are not the first ones to be cut because we value educators on this side of the Assembly. If the minister doesn't want to cut staff, then which programs will he suggest Saskatoon Public Schools cut?

Should they cut EAL [English as an additional language] or supports for newcomers? Should they be cutting programs for high-needs students that are already drastically underfunded? Should they be cutting art or music, Mr. Speaker? What programs does that minister think Saskatoon Public Schools should cut because of his failure to deliver?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Advanced Education.

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Mr. Speaker, this government's commitment to public education is anything but a failure. We're very proud of the education investments that we've made over the years, Mr. Speaker. We respect the autonomy of Saskatoon Public and all the school divisions to make the decisions that they need to make to ensure that they're providing quality education to the children in their classrooms, Mr. Speaker.

But on this side of the House, we value each and every individual that's involved and engaged, that's engaged, Mr. Speaker, in the education system. We value each and every one of them and the contributions they make to the children of Saskatchewan to make sure that the children of Saskatchewan have a great future right here in this province, Mr. Speaker. And the people of this province, the great people of Saskatchewan can continue to count on this government to provide the resources that are necessary to do just that.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

**Mr. Love:** — Mr. Speaker, it's absolutely crystal clear that school divisions will be forced to make cuts to staff and supports because of this tired and out-of-touch government. That is crystal clear. But they may need to look at cuts to extracurricular programs too.

Has the minister given any thought to which afterschool programs will be first on the chopping block? Maybe basketball? Maybe band? Maybe the school play? Maybe football? Can they survive without funding? No. Funding that this minister is cutting in Saskatoon Public Schools, all while sitting on record windfall revenues, are needed for those afterschool programs.

How many extracurriculars for students will be cut in Saskatoon because of this minister's choice to slash per-student funding?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Advanced Education.

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — More money in public education this year than last year, Mr. Speaker. On the operating side, almost \$50 million more for the school divisions to operate and to provide.

Mr. Speaker, decisions with respect to . . . The members opposite are always complaining, Mr. Speaker. They want me to make decisions about which programs are available to students in Saskatoon Public, Mr. Speaker. They well know that we respect the autonomy of local school divisions to make the decisions that they need to make, Mr. Speaker, for the proper delivery of education. Well they want to listen to . . . They don't want to listen to the answer, Mr. Speaker.

The school divisions will make the decisions that they need to make to ensure that students in Saskatchewan get the best quality education, Mr. Speaker. This government is very proud of the investments that we've made over the years, Mr. Speaker, and only the opposition complain about how many people or kids are in our classrooms. We're going to continue to work on building our economy so that we have the resources available to continue to support the kids in our classrooms.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

**Mr. Love:** — Mr. Speaker, I mean, come on. If this minister thinks that things are going so well, why are divisions cutting? Year after year after year they're cutting.

Apparently he thinks that school divisions can make something out of nothing. It's just not how it works. If schools can't fund teachers, they can't fund programs, they can't fund extracurriculars, they've got to make cuts. And it's our kids who pay the price. Our kids won't get the attention, the resources, or the experiences that they need, and learning will suffer.

Will the minister take responsibility, not if, but when these cuts happen? Will he take responsibility when the quality of education in our schools suffers and our kids are the ones who pay the price?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Advanced Education.

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — I wouldn't call \$3.1 billion nothing, Mr. Speaker, and that's what the member has just said.

Mr. Speaker, we've made significant investments, not just in operating, Mr. Speaker, but 90 new schools and major renovations to ensure that we have the classroom space to educate children. New schools right across the province, in large cities and in small communities right across Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

That shows this government's commitment to ensuring that our kids have the classroom space, that they have the resources

available, that our school divisions have the resources available, to make sure that our children get the best quality education, Mr. Speaker. I'm very proud of our education system in Saskatchewan, one of the best in the country, Mr. Speaker, and this government's going to continue to support that.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

### Health Care Staffing

**Ms. Mowat:** — This tired and out-of-touch government is failing teachers and students in Saskatoon, and they're failing to deliver when it comes to supporting family doctors. Two hundred thousand people across Saskatchewan don't have a family doctor. That's one in six. When they get sick, one in six people have to choose between toughing it out or waiting hours in a packed emergency room.

What is the minister doing to make sure everyone across Saskatchewan has access to a family doctor?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We did have this question actually when we were in committee a couple of weeks ago, Mr. Speaker. And I clarified to the member opposite that it's not always access to a doctor. There is access to primary care through our medical clinics but also through nurse practitioners. They seem to exclude nurse practitioners from absolutely everything, Mr. Speaker, and they're doing an absolute amazing job.

Mr. Speaker, we do have a hundred and . . . Mr. Speaker, I will again let the House know that in the last 19 months, 170 more doctors have called Saskatchewan home. Sixty-nine of them are family doctors, Mr. Speaker. This is exactly what we're identifying in our health human resource action plan, our health recruitment agency, to be able to continue to build on the 170 doctors that we've been able to bring into the province in the last 19 months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

**Ms. Mowat:** — Mr. Speaker, we weren't excluding nurse practitioners when they joined us at the legislature to call on this government to make changes to their model, were we?

Mr. Speaker, the family doctor crisis isn't new, and sadly it isn't surprising. Family physicians have been telling us for years that the fee-for-service model isn't working. They've been telling us it's got them overwhelmed with administration, and it keeps their patients from getting the care they need. They want team-based care.

We know that team-based care works. Why is the minister failing to deliver a team-based care model that actually works for doctors and patients?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I only

ask the members opposite to pay attention to the news releases. The team-based care that we are using, Mr. Speaker, 18 designations, 550 individuals coming into our advanced education program, 150 more nursing positions, Mr. Speaker, that were brought in in last year's budget.

We are building the health care team in Saskatchewan, not just from within Saskatchewan, across Canada and around the world. We have 420 conditional offers to Filipino workers, Mr. Speaker, that are going to be able to come in. Some of them have landed on the ground and are already integrating into our system. We're streamlining our advanced education system with the Filipino advanced education system so they can challenge the NCLEX [National Council Licensure Examination], the national nursing test, to be able to come into our system faster.

Mr. Speaker, we are building on what we have within our system, and we're going to continue to do that with the investments from last year's budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

**Ms. Mowat:** — Mr. Speaker, that minister needs to review the definition of team-based care. What he's talking about right now is not team-based care. Mr. Speaker, this tired and out-of-touch Sask Party government isn't listening to family doctors, and it's not surprising that doctors are packing up.

The College of Family Physicians announced today that one in five doctors in this province is considering retirement. Dr. Andries Muller said, "There's a hopelessness in those doctors." How is it possible that one in five doctors has lost all hope, but the minister keeps saying everything is fine in health care?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Mr. Speaker, I don't understand how retirement is "lost all hope." People retire when they're finished their career, Mr. Speaker, and I thank those professions that were out there.

Mr. Speaker, they talk about the Saskatchewan Medical Association. I have a few quotes that I'd like to read into the record: "These measures send a signal that the government recognizes the pressures that our family doctors are facing." Dr. John Gjevre.

Second quote, Mr. Speaker: "I'm confident that the government and Minister Merriman is committed to family doctors and to the medical profession within this province." Again, Dr. Gjevre.

Third quote, Mr. Speaker: "I think this is a step in the right direction and a bridge while we bring in the greater changes that are needed within our health care system." Dr. Adam Ogieglo.

These are the family physicians, these are the representatives of the medical community that I'm meeting with and continue to work on to make sure that our health care system, and most importantly our primary health care system, is up to speed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon

Fairview.

**Ms. Mowat:** — Mr. Speaker, what else has the SMA [Saskatchewan Medical Association] said? They've said they need team-based care, that nothing else will do, that this is absolutely necessary.

[14:15]

Mr. Speaker, there's no excuse for the strain the government has put on family doctors. Family docs in Saskatchewan used to retire in their 70s, even their 80s. Now they're barely reaching their 60s before they're done for good. Their ideal caseload is 1,400 patients. Now they've got 2,500 patients, even 3,000 patients.

Does the minister understand that nothing about this is normal, that doctors are burning out and that this is unacceptable? And what is the plan to support family docs to practise in Saskatchewan?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Mr. Speaker, is it the opposition's position that our family physicians should work well into their 90s, Mr. Speaker? We don't think that. We think that if they have the opportunity and they've worked hard in our province, they should enjoy their retirement, Mr. Speaker.

But if they do retire and they do choose to retire, we're going to make sure that we have the people in behind them to be able to fill in the gaps for their retirement. They should retire, Mr. Speaker, when they feel that it is appropriate. We're not going to force them to work into their 80s and 90s like the opposition did. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

**Ms. Mowat:** — Just an embarrassing answer from that minister, Mr. Speaker. People should want to stay in this work. These should be good jobs. These should be jobs that people have a quality of life in. That is the point, Mr. Speaker, not whatever spin that minister is peddling today.

Mr. Speaker, that minister certainly has ideas about what family doctors need. It's too bad that they don't align in any way with what the family doctors are telling us. Throwing money at the problem, putting up new buildings with no staff doesn't work. Reforming the model of care, that's what works. That's what doctors have been telling us for years.

When will that tired and out-of-touch minister listen to doctors instead of talking over them?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd ask the member opposite when she sat down with the entire board of the SMA with all of the family physicians that advise, Mr. Speaker. We just had a press conference not even a month ago, Mr. Speaker, to increase into rural Saskatchewan going from an incentive of \$47,000 up to \$200,000 on a return to service, Mr. Speaker. We

expanded the urgent care hours, Mr. Speaker.

And if the opposition is now complaining about us building urgent care centres and building hospitals, well, Mr. Speaker, that's something that they're extremely . . . They would have no idea what that's all about, Mr. Speaker, because all they did was close facilities and send people out of the province year after year after year, Mr. Speaker.

We'll continue to build. We'll continue to recruit doctors. We'll continue to recruit nurses and all health care providers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Douglas Park.

### Workplace Fatalities

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Nothing but spin from this government, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, every single day hundreds of thousands of people in this province go to work. But in 2022, 39 didn't come home. That's the worst number since 2018. It's not right and it's not what workers in Saskatchewan deserve. What is the minister going to do to prevent another 39 deaths this year?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the member opposite for the question. This is something that has to be taken seriously by not just members of this House, but by our citizens and by our businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I indicated earlier that we had a three-year plan followed by a five-year plan. We certainly have a lot more work to do. I don't want to appear to be giving any kind of an excuse, but I would like to put a bit of context around the numbers.

The most significant areas that we deal with are asbestos, motor vehicle crashes, firefighter cancers, and falls from heights. Tragically last year 16 workers died due to asbestos exposure. Seven were killed in motor vehicle accidents. Asbestos exposure made up 41 per cent of the fatalities in 2022. Motor vehicles made up 18 per cent. Mr. Speaker, that gives us an indication of where we have to work and, Mr. Speaker, this is something that cannot and must not be politicized. It's work that has to be done by everyone in the province.

### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

#### Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

**Mr. Dennis:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 99, *The Emergency 911 System Amendment Act, 2022* without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be considered in

Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety.

**Hon. Ms. Tell:** — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill be now read the third time.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 99 and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

### THIRD READINGS

#### Bill No. 99 — *The Emergency 911 System Amendment Act, 2022*

**Hon. Ms. Tell:** — I move that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel:** — Third reading of this bill.

**The Speaker:** — Third reading.

### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

#### Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

**Mr. Dennis:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 118, *The Warrant Compliance Act* without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be considered in the Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety.

**Hon. Ms. Tell:** — I request leave to waive consideration in the Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill be now read the third time.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill 118 and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

### THIRD READINGS

#### Bill No. 118 — *The Warrant Compliance Act*

**Hon. Ms. Tell:** — I move that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel:** — Third reading of this bill.

**The Speaker:** — Third reading.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

### ADJOURNED DEBATES

### SECOND READINGS

#### Bill No. 128

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Reiter that **Bill No. 128 — *The Mineral Resources Amendment Act, 2023*** be now read a second time.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter in with respect to Bill No. 128, *The Mineral Resources Amendment Act, 2023* here today, Mr. Speaker. There are such incredible opportunities that must be seized on this front, and this industry is a strategic industry, not just to Saskatchewan but to Canada and to the world, Mr. Speaker. And it's an industry that needs to be organized in a way, of course, that's going to benefit this province, but it's critical that we advance critical minerals mining in Saskatchewan.

We have an exceptional reputation as a miner in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. Of course we're blessed with incredible resources,

Mr. Speaker. We lead the way with respect to potash and uranium, Mr. Speaker, two resources that are incredibly valuable to the world, Mr. Speaker, and that give us clout and levers that are unsurpassed, Mr. Speaker. And it's because of the incredible resource, Mr. Speaker, but it's also because of the companies and the workers and the world-class approach to mining those minerals, Mr. Speaker.

With respect to the opportunities that critical minerals present, Mr. Speaker, again Saskatchewan and Canada, but particularly Saskatchewan, has incredible opportunities here, Mr. Speaker. We have what the world needs when we're talking about lithium and helium and copper and zinc, Mr. Speaker, and the rare earth metals, Mr. Speaker, that are in such demand with respect to manufacturing and technology, Mr. Speaker, that are so critical as well to supplying EVs or electric vehicles, Mr. Speaker, with what they need.

We see significant investments and increases to manufacturing with respect to EVs, Mr. Speaker, both in Canada and in North America and around the world, Mr. Speaker. But it's critical that we make sure that we capture the full value of that supply chain, Mr. Speaker, and that Saskatchewan be the world's preferred democratic supplier of these minerals, Mr. Speaker.

It would be a tremendous lost opportunity not to build out this industry at this critical juncture. It would be a critical lost opportunity not to build out this industry and that mining and that processing and secure those opportunities, Mr. Speaker, because once those other markets are established, Mr. Speaker, they're harder to displace. And there's no excuse for us not to lead from the perspective of Saskatchewan and Canada on this front.

It's going to take a provincial government and a federal government to recognize how strategic this industry is for Saskatchewan and for Canada, and to lean into that work and to make it happen. It can't be a side-of-a-desk sort of project, Mr. Speaker. We have an unprecedented opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to work with Saskatchewan communities and First Nations, Mr. Speaker, and work with this incredible opportunity, Mr. Speaker.

Certainly some of the changes brought about seem reasonable, Mr. Speaker. The question is, what priority is this government placing on this industry, Mr. Speaker? How are they working together with the federal government on this front? How are we going to make sure that it's not just rhetoric coming from the other side, but in fact that we're advancing projects, Mr. Speaker?

As a point, Mr. Speaker, I note the PST [provincial sales tax] on construction that was added just a few years ago by this government. Of course it defied economic sense and common sense then, Mr. Speaker. It was a gut punch to growth. It was the epitome of a job-killing tax, Mr. Speaker, and we've seen the damage it's caused to Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. We see it in the poor GDP [gross domestic product] performance of that government, Mr. Speaker. We see it on having the worst record when it comes to jobs, Mr. Speaker, last place around building permits, Mr. Speaker, and on so many economic fronts, Mr. Speaker.

So I would implore this government to not only step up and make critical minerals a priority in Saskatchewan, but then also to

make sure that we're addressing some of the challenges that have been created with respect to competitiveness by way of the choices of that government, Mr. Speaker, and that being the PST that they stuck on construction labour, Mr. Speaker.

Of course this is an impediment to growth on many fronts. It hampers investment on projects large and small, Mr. Speaker. Whether you're a home builder, Mr. Speaker, or whether you're building out an industrial project, Mr. Speaker, that tax on growth and jobs makes no sense. It didn't when they imposed it, Mr. Speaker. It certainly doesn't in the current context of the US pulling some fiscal levers, Mr. Speaker, and incenting in a way that creates a real challenge for capital, a real challenge for securing that investment, Mr. Speaker, at a time where this government has walked our competitiveness backwards because of that great big tax, Mr. Speaker. It's sort of the least the province could do on this front, Mr. Speaker.

Important to make sure that we can build out the mines and the industrial complex that's required on these fronts, Mr. Speaker. Important on the processing side, Mr. Speaker. Of course we see that very important project — and there should be many, Mr. Speaker — but we see vital minerals, Mr. Speaker, you know, an incredible opportunity by way of a processing operation here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. We see it being paused right now, Mr. Speaker. We note that they're referencing that that's due to current market conditions, Mr. Speaker, and also due to costs, Mr. Speaker.

Certainly the costs that this government is imposing on construction like this, Mr. Speaker, hampers our competitiveness, Mr. Speaker, when we need to make sure we're securing the investment that's needed and working in a coordinated approach with the federal government, Mr. Speaker, to make this industry happen here in Saskatchewan in a good way that will benefit generations, Mr. Speaker, across our province.

With that being said, Mr. Speaker, I will of course be engaged with all the stakeholders, will continue to invite their input, and we'll certainly have our lead critic be engaged in this project in following up in due course at various processes. But I would move to adjourn debate at this time.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 129

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Merriman that **Bill No. 129 — *The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2023*** be now read a second time.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've already spoken to Bill No. 129, *The Medical Profession Amendment Act*.

[14:30]

I have a number of questions that I will be bringing forward in committee as well. But I'll take my previous comments on the record to still stand. And with that, I'm prepared to allow this bill to move on to its next steps.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the minister that Bill No. 129 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel:** — Second reading of this bill.

**The Speaker:** — To which committee shall this bill be committed? I recognize the Government Deputy House Leader.

**Hon. Ms. Carr:** — To the Standing Committee on Human Services.

**The Speaker:** — The bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

### Bill No. 132

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. McMorris that **Bill No. 132 — *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel (Automation and Remote Supervision Pilot) Amendment Act, 2023*** be now read a second time.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

**Ms. Nippi-Albright:** — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter my remarks on Bill No. 132. I understand that this bill is an amendment to *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act, 1999* and that it's giving the chief boiler inspector the opportunity to exempt boiler owners from needing a licensed power engineer on site at all times. We obviously do support the elimination of removing red tape that we often impose, and it's good to see this.

And I will also join in on the conversation about our experiences with a boiler system. As many in this House know, I grew up in a residential school. And as a little girl, there was a huge, huge building with lots of machines and lots of pipes. And I didn't know that . . . We just knew that was the boiler room. And there were individuals that were employed there, and they were there all the time. And as a little girl at six years old, having to . . . When they would have their garage doors up in the spring and summer or in the fall, we'd hear the noise in there. And one of the things that I . . . And we had those old heaters and they would often be hot in the summer. And I'm so grateful that I didn't have to live with that kind of heat for a long, long time because they did change it. But what struck me was, and I was quite curious to know, like, how come they have . . . like, what was in that big room, that big boiler room?

And I didn't realize until I was much older, the skill set you needed to have and the specialized training to operate that until I

was much older. And of course working in the hospital system, having those old boilers, and my office when I worked in the hospital, in the old former nurses' residence in Saskatoon, that we could never control the heat in our offices.

And I didn't realize the extent, like the specialization that you need to operate these and to have someone there on site all the time. So to read on this and to find out that they're looking at a way to have a system of automation and remote supervision, providing there is no undue risk to the public safety, I think removing those red tapes is often a good thing for . . . and being more effective and efficient in the work that we do, that also is ensuring that we are thinking about the citizens, that everyone that is safe.

So with that, I won't say any more on this. Just wanted to enter my remarks into this debate. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I move adjourned debate on Bill No. 132.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 133

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 133 — *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2023*** be now read a second time.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

**Ms. Conway:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter into debate on Bill No. 133, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2023*. I understand the bill extends the deadline of the manufacturing and processing exporter hiring incentive and the head office incentive. Mr. Speaker, these are non-refundable tax credits to eligible corporations that expand the number of manufacturing process-related full-time employees above the number that were allowed in 2014. It's basically a jobs incentive, Mr. Speaker. And it would be wise for the Sask Party government to look at job incentives, given that they have the worst jobs growth in the country, Mr. Speaker.

I believe we were the only province with negative full-time jobs growth last year, so these are the kinds of incentives, sure, we need to be looking at. But of course we in the opposition will want to see that there's actually some evidence that this is working, that this is going to work, Mr. Speaker, because it's urgent that this Sask Party government act on this front. The Premier's record, his five-year record is one of failure on the jobs front, Mr. Speaker. So we in the opposition are calling on this government for urgent action on this front.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I'm looking forward to hearing from my colleagues. The critic from Regina Rosemont, I am sure, will be lead critic on this bill, the income amendment Act, and the critic from Regina University. I know they're on it. I know they're reaching out to stakeholders, Mr. Speaker, and I look forward to hearing more from them. So with that, I would move to adjourn

debate on Bill No. 133, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2023*.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 134

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 134 — *The Education Amendment Act, 2023/Loi modificative de 2023 sur l'éducation*** be now read a second time.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

**Ms. Ritchie:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As always, it's a pleasure to be on my feet today, entering into debate on Bill No. 134, *The Education Amendment Act, 2023*. This bill is bringing forward measures to add the Saskatchewan Distance Learning Centre to include the same scope as boards of education and Conseil scolaire in *The Education Act*, and other measures to create an online learning platform for students across the province.

It concerns us on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, with the lack of attention that is being given to, you know, the complex needs existing within our existing school system, within our physical learning environments, where we have student/teacher ratios that are as high as they've ever been, increased complex needs, needs of students who have English as an additional language, and other concerns as we still continue to grapple with coming out of the pandemic.

We've seen that educational attainment levels are suffering. Grade 3 levels, which is a benchmark for the quality of education that our students are receiving, has fallen. And at a time when we need to be making significant per-student investments within our school system, creating a new online platform is a distraction and an unnecessary burden that is not going to be addressing the primary needs that we're seeing by students and their families.

I think you've heard today from our critic and others around concerns that school boards are facing once again this year with further cuts to programming, further cuts to other areas, including educational assistants and psychologists. I mean the ratios are becoming impossible. It creates an environment where it is incredibly demoralizing for all involved. And certainly for the professionals, the students, and other educators within our classrooms that, you know, it's hard for them to do their jobs in a way that they can feel like they're meeting their professional obligations, and that is providing the best for their students.

It's already been mentioned that our rankings have fallen to eighth across the country. And so focusing on online schooling instead of getting the fundamentals right, ensuring that the investments are there for our students, is the wrong path to be going on. So we don't support the further centralization of power and resources in the ministry.

We've seen over time how this government, this tired and old government, has continued to take away the authority and the independence of local schools and communities to set curriculum, to set mill rights, to determine the education that their students are receiving in the classroom. This is yet one further example of that. We're seeing that this is something that is being guided by factors that are outside of what's in the best interests of the children. You see that in terms of where this online learning centre is going to be located and the impacts it's going to have, particularly in rural areas.

When I've been speaking with local constituents as I've been out doing my outreach into communities, the concerns that I'm hearing from local families and other professionals is they see this as an attempt by this government to further undermine school divisions so that they are forced, essentially, into these online environments.

And you know, it's disingenuous at best but it's deeply, deeply damaging to the schools in these communities that are the heart of their communities. And not only that, but when you think about what a school environment offers, not only to the students but also to the surrounding community in terms of being a hub for community connection, for growth, for support . . .

You know, kids can't learn in a vacuum. I mean it's one thing to have, you know, maybe an odd class here or there that's offered in an online platform in exceptional circumstances, but what we see here is a trend towards an overreliance on an online model as a way to, you know, force school divisions to deal with budgets that have been cut by this government year over year, with funding models that put more and more pressure on school budgets.

And at the end of the day, our communities are suffering. Our communities, our rural communities, will suffer from that lack of opportunity to come together as a community. And let's not forget, we still don't have broadband access universally in Saskatchewan. So even the ability to access these platforms is going to be significantly hampered for many, many families across the province.

[14:45]

And so you know, I think it's a solution searching for a problem. There has been inadequate or, indeed, slim to no consultation that's occurred before the introduction of this bill. School divisions have not been consulted. Teachers have not been consulted.

Once again we see basically a solution coming forward that is half-baked and ill-informed. And I would say that this is not going to be achieving better educational outcomes for the students and the families that are going to be forced into this learning platform as a result of reduced budgets within our school systems across the province.

So I think it's fair to say that this is not a bill that we can get behind and support. And I know that our critic for this area has been consulting very extensively and widely. Well in fact he doesn't even have to reach out to them. They're calling him because they're so upset about this.

And I'm sure we'll get more of an earful on Saturday at the rally here in Regina on this matter, in addition to the myriad of other issues and concerns that we've heard so far around cuts to our classrooms, cuts to core funding, and the lack of ability for this bill to be any sort of an answer to the crisis that we're facing here in our school systems across the province. So with that, I will conclude my remarks and adjourn debate on Bill No. 134.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 135

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 135 — *The Education Consequential Amendments Act, 2023*** be now read a second time.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

**Ms. Ritchie:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A pleasure once again to be on my feet for Bill No. 135, *The Education Consequential Amendments Act, 2023*. I think I might have missed a few points when I was speaking on the previous bill that relates to these amendments. You know, much has been said but I want to further emphasize as well the actual issues that should be prioritized by this government when it comes to improving the education system here in the province.

We know that the needs in the classrooms are more complex, that we have increasing enrolments. Class sizes are the highest they've ever been, and we even have a lack of, you know, tables and desks and chairs to even accommodate all the kids in these classrooms. Like if that doesn't point to a crisis in our classrooms, I don't know what does.

We know also that the kids in our classrooms are experiencing significant mental health issues. It's already been mentioned again, the very concerning events that have occurred in the community of La Loche last week, a community that has already been devastated previously by outbreaks of violence that have resulted in deaths in that community.

These issues are of great concern. They're severe, and we need to make sure that we're providing adequate resources in community-based education, not in online platforms that further isolate and alienate students who are dealing with significant mental health issues and concerns. And so this is a step in the wrong direction.

We need to be bringing our students together in classrooms where we can support them and meet their needs. Online learning does not achieve that and cannot be a basic component of education for our students. And with that I will conclude my remarks and adjourn debate on Bill No. 135.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. J. Harrison:** — In order to facilitate the work of committee this afternoon and this evening, I move that this House do now adjourn.

**The Speaker:** — The Government House Leader has moved to adjourn the House. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. This House now stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:50.]



# GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

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